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Eastern District of California

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FORMER FRESNO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO
POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
Plea Agreement Includes 6.5 Years in Prison

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced that TERRY LYNN ZANE, 58, of Fresno, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to one count of possession of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. As part of his plea agreement, ZANE agreed to a prison term of 6.5 years and a 10-year term of supervised release.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Fresno Police Department with technical assistance from the Clovis Police Department's High Tech Crimes Investigation Unit. It was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, ZANE admitted that from May 15, 2008 through July 22, 2008, he possessed on one or more computer hard drives more than 600 images of child pornography. Some of the images were of prepubescent children, and some depicted violence and sadistic abuse. ZANE was arrested after Fresno Police investigators were called to investigate suspected child pornography images on a computer that he had left at a business in Fresno. The Fresno County District Attorney's Office initially filed state charges against him, but those were dismissed in favor of federal prosecution. A federal indictment was returned on October 16, 2008. ZANE most recently taught music at Wolters and Lawless Elementary Schools in Northwest Fresno.

ZANE was remanded into custody today. The court scheduled sentencing for March 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. At that time the court can either accept the plea agreement, allow the defendant to plead guilty without an agreement, or set the case for trial. The maximum term of imprisonment is ten years, there is a potential \$250,000 fine, a lifetime term of supervised release, and a mandatory penalty assessment of \$100.

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